

FHWA-2003-15149

National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; Maintaining Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity

To whom it may concern:

Let me begin my commending the FHWA for taking steps to provide the motorists with better signing for drivers during nighttime hours. I think that you will be contributing to the decrease in fatalities and injuries, which continues to occur at alarming rates on our streets and highways.

I am pleased to provide comments on the FHWA's Notice of Proposed Amendments (NPA) to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. I am very concerned about the lack of maintenance that exists today on our traffic signs, especially in our town. This is a nationwide problem. Additionally, it seems that there is not enough being done for the older driver who is capable of driving at night.

It appears that you are proposing that the minimum maintained levels would be available in a separate document, outside the MUTCD. Not having that reference readily available within the MUTCD is a disservice for the smaller cities and counties who won't invest the time to secure this document. It took me a few times to type this address correctly just to find this report. (http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/fourthlevel/pro_res_retrore_report.htm)

Furthermore, in section 2A.22, the existing language in the MUTCD states that signs should be maintained, and damaged or deteriorated signs should be replaced. I feel the "should" condition must be replaced with a "shall" condition. I state this because the existing maintenance of traffic signs section (2A.22) continually uses the wording "should" throughout the section. If the proposed minor modifications to this section retain the "should" condition, then what assurances do we have that traffic signs will be replaced when they are no longer visible? I urge you to make this a mandatory "shall" requirement in the hopes that we can save a few more lives.

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this important regulation.

Sincerely,

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